(b) and (c) The Government's monitoring of the performance of the Steel Industry in the Private Sector is restricted to data collection and playing the role of a facilitator in removing any bottlenecks in the growth prospects of the Indian Steel Sector.

(d) The Government has taken several steps to increase the production of steel, such as modernisation and expansion of public sector steel plants and adoption of various policy measures to encourage creation of additional steel production capacity in the private sector. Indian Steel Producers have also been taking steps to meet the domestic requirement of steel including upgradation of technology, improvement in productivity, improvement in quality of products and adoption of an appropriate product-mix to suit the requirements of the consumers.

Value-addition to Durgapur Steel Plant products

2507. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Durgapur Steel Plant is unable to make net profit even after achieving nearly 100 per cent rate of production;

(b) what are the reasons for not breaking even, despite such a high level of production;

(c) what steps are being taken to add value to the products of Durgapur Steel Plant; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the finished to semi-finished steel ratio, in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) is yet to achieve 100% capacity utilisation. The net loss (-) and capacity utilisation in terms of Saleable Steel in DSP for the last three years is as under:

Year	Net Loss(-) (Rs./Crs.)	Capacity utilisation (%age of Saleable Steel)
1999-2000	(-) 651	88
2000-2001	(-) 236	94
2001-2002	(-) 262	96

(b) the reasons for not breaking even are as under:

- Sluggish market, resulting in low Net Sales Realisation (NSR)
- Almost 55% of production comprises of semis, which fetches poor realization.
- Higher interest and depreciation cost on modernisation/capital schemes while the benefit of modernisation would materialise in phases.

(c) and (d) Value addition to Durgapur Steel Plant products is being done by maximimising output from finishing mills, increasing production of special grades and conversion of semis to finished products by outside agencies, including Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited. Finishing capacity at DSP could also be augmented once funds are available.

Loss of SAIL

2508. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what were the figures of loss of SAIL, as on 31st March, 2002;

(b) which of its steel plant are earning profit and which are suffering losses;

(c) what steps are being taken to make all the plants profit earning; and

(d) whether SAIL is likely to break even this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The accumulated net loss of SAIL as on 31.03.2002 is Rs. 2461 crores.

(b) Bhilai Steel Plant is the profit making unit of SAIL. The loss making units are as under:

- Durgapur Steel Plant
- Rourkela Steel Plant
- Bokaro Steel Plant
- Alloy Steel Plant
- Salem Steel Plant
- Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant

(c) and (d) SAIL is not likely to break even this year. However,